TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 8, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 3 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 305.7 billion ton-miles, up 0.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 3 totaled 384,883, down 1.3 percent from last year, but 0.3 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 5.0 percent in the West, but down 5.7 percent in the East, and 6.7 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Metallic ores were down by 4,823 cars (24.7 percent) and nonmetallic minerals decreased by 2,456 cars (19.2 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 26 totaled 100,341 trailers and/or containers, 16.6 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 1,643,502 trailers and/or containers, up 15.3 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/3/86:

	Loadings in Week ended May 3, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	17,593	D	374	2.1	I	592	3.5
Other farm products	3,057	D	340	10.0	I	148	5.1
Metallic ores	14,668	D	4,823	24.7	D	2,426	14.2
Coal	111,030	D	835	0.7	D	1,453	1.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,645	I	406	2.9	D	652	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,348	D	2,456	19.2	I	588	6.0
Grain mill products	10,109	D	58	0.6	D	64	0.6
Food and kindred products	11,326	I	12	0.1	I	204	1.8
Primary forest products	9,882	D	2,085	17.4	D	251	2.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,505	I	554	7.0	I	55	0.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,868	D	1,319	9.3	I	516	4.2
Chemicals and allied products	25,361	D	866	3.3	D	434	1.7
Petroleum products	4,742	I	84	1.8	I	15	0.3
Stone, clay and glass products	10,885	D	620	5.4	I	333	3.2
Coke	5,265	D	220	4.0	I	411	8.5
Metals and products	9,458	D	359	3.7	I	858	10.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,136	D	447	2.0	D	731	3.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,315	D	801	8.8	D	223	2.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,256	D	3,433	51.3	I	74	2.3
All other carloads	71,331	I	12,765	21.8	I	3,730	5.5
LCL traffic	103	D	40	28.0	D	4	3.7
Total Cars Loaded	384,883	D	5,255	1.3	I	1,286	0.3
Corresponding week of 1985	390,138						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks)	6,707,148	6,709,765	D 0.0

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

17 Weeks ended April 26	288.6	288.1	I 0.2
Week ended May 3	17.1	17.2	D 0.2
18 Weeks cumulative	305.7	305.2	I 0.2

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